

Eagle Ranger District
125 West 5th Street
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Eagle, CO 81631-0720
(970) 328-6388– Phone
Www.fs.usda.gov/whiteriver



United States Department of Agriculture



Yates Gulch-FDT 1864

Difficulty: Moderate
Trail Use: Low
Length: 2.7 miles
Elevation: Starts at 8051 feet, ends at 9666 feet, highest point 9666 feet
Elevation Gain: +1615 feet - 0 feet = +1615 feet
Open To: Hiking, horseback riding

Access:

- Travel 7 miles west of Eagle to the Gypsum exit and make a left towards town.
- Take a right at the National Forest Access sign, Valley Rd., this road will turn into Gypsum Creek Rd., FDR 412.
- Travel for 11 3/4 miles and the trailhead will be on the left side of the road.

Trail Highlights:

- The trail is in good condition and easy to follow and an excellent route for those who enjoy experiencing a more arid part of the forest.
- The trail begins as an old jeep road that follows an intermittent stream and goes through sagebrush and young aspen, then traveling between dry gypsum hills and eventually tall red sandstone cliffs.
- The trail will enter scrub oak and serviceberry shrubs and then become steep and rocky.
- The trail levels out near the top of the gulch and continues through aspen and spruce/fir forests.
- The trail ends at Yates Reservoir, where you can connect onto West Hardscrabble– FDT 2222.
- On the lower half of the trail, it is possible to find the clear-colored crystals of gypsum as well as an abundance of wildflowers.
- Further up the trail, some of the red sandstone rocks have ancient ripple marks, evidence that this area was once under a shallow sea long ago.
- A vast array of butterfly species can be spotted such as blues, sulfurs, fritillaries, skippers and swallowtails.
- Some other colorful insects including fast-flying tiger beetles, cicadas, and the nectar loving hover flies can also be seen along the trail.

Important Information:

- ALL DISTANCES ARE ONE WAY.

PACK IT IN—PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!

THIS MAP IS INTENDED FOR USE AS A GENERAL GUIDE ONLY, NOT FOR ACTUAL LAND NAVIGATION. THE WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST STRONGLY SUGGESTS PURCHASING A TOPOGRAPHIC TRAIL MAP AND COMPASS PRIOR TO BEGINNING A HIKING TRIP.



YATES GULCH - FDT 18

Gypsum Creek Rd
FDR 412

